

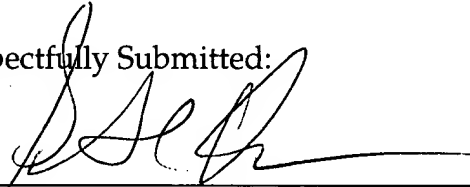
**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated September 24, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Applicant hereby cancels all claims except the allowed claims (8, 9, and 17) as stated at page 6 of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon further consideration, the Examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner call undersigned to expeditiously resolve same.

Dated: March 19, 2004

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kreten', written over a horizontal line.

BERNHARD KRETEN  
Applicant's Attorney  
Telephone (916) 930-9700  
Registration No.: 27,037